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Date of Deposit 12/2/03

Our File No. 9281-4717  
Client Reference No. J US02166

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: )  
Hideki Ito )  
Serial No. To Be Assigned )  
Filing Date: Herewith )  
For: Keyboard with Key Supporting )  
Structure )

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to the obligation under 37 C.F.R. 1.56 and in conformance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97-1.99, Applicant hereby submits references A1-A4 listed on the attached form PTO-1449 for consideration by the Examiner. Copies of the references are enclosed herewith.

Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 11-3158 discloses pieces prepared by cutting out a single board and are bent for supporting a plurality of keys.

Japanese Unexamined Utility Model Registration 4-76224 and Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 6-36647 disclose examples of known linking structures.

Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 11-16440 disclose a key that is supported by three linking units.

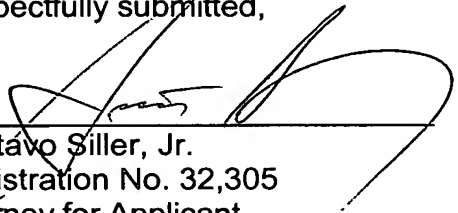
The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement does not constitute an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. Section 1.56(b). Further, Applicant reserves the right to contest these references as prior art against the present application, and

Applicant does not believe that the disclosure of these references, even if finally determined to be prior art, anticipates Applicant's invention or that these references make Applicant's invention obvious.

No fees are believed to be due in connection with filing of this Information Disclosure Statement, however, should any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be deemed necessary for any reason relating to this material, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct said fees from Brinks Hofer Gilson & Lione Deposit Account No. 23-1925.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner review the entire disclosure of these documents and make them of record.

Respectfully submitted,



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<b>FORM PTO-1449</b>  <b>LIST OF PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS FOR APPLICANT'S INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</b>  (use several sheets if necessary)	SERIAL NO.	CASE NO.
	To be Assigned	9281-4717
	FILING DATE	GROUP ART UNIT
	Herewith.	
	APPLICANT(S): Hideki Ito	

**REFERENCE DESIGNATION**
**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS/ SUBCLASS	FILING DATE

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS/ SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES	NO
	A1	11-3158	01/1999	JP		X	
	A2	4-76224		JP		X	
	A2	6-036647	02/1994	JP		X	
	A3	11-016440	01/1999	JP		X	

EXAMINER INITIAL	OTHER ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)	

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.